

August 11, 2015

Mr. Tom Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Proceeding No. 15-149

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

As the St. Louis County Executive, it is important that our community has competitive telecommunications infrastructures present to provide important services to our homes and businesses as well as to help spur investments in our county. Charter Communications is one of the telecommunications companies that is providing quality video, voice, and Internet services in St. Louis County.

Charter's network is all-digital. Their cable service has more than 200 programming services, many of them in HD. They have a competitive voice service for customers and businesses to compete with traditional phone services. More importantly, Charter offers a high quality, high speed Internet service, with their slowest speed in St. Louis County at 100 megabits per second. The company does not block, throttle, or prioritize Internet traffic. Their standard services are contract-free and the company, under the merger, is committed to invest in out-of-home WiFi. This will help inject much needed competition in our commercial market.

Charter has also brought new jobs into the State of Missouri. Last year, they added a new Customer Care Center with a \$12 million renovation of a 78,000 square-foot facility in Bridgeton that added hundreds of new jobs in the county. This year, they are investing capital dollars to add more jobs in the county with becoming an anchor tenant at the former Northwest Plaza shopping mall. As part of this proposed merger, Charter is also committed to bringing Time Warner Cable customer service jobs overseas back home to the United States.

Finally, Charter has been a good corporate citizen. Their initiative, Charter Our Community, works with Rebuilding Together St. Louis to help rebuild low-income homes. They participate in such programs as the William L. Clay Scholarship Fund so that young people of

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low-income homes can attend college, and the Mayor's Shamrock Ball which supports Valley Industries, a sheltered workshop providing employment to adults with developmental disabilities. They provide access channel capabilities to various communities for government programming. This includes meetings of the St. Louis County Council and provides educational access for the Higher Education Channel. The company also provides free cable service to public and private elementary and secondary schools through its cable industry Cable in the Classroom program.

For the reasons stated above, I believe the Charter merger with Time Warner Cable and Bright House will be beneficial to existing and new service areas of Charter. I respectfully ask that the FCC approve the New Charter merger.

Sincerely,

Steven V. Stenger  
County Executive